GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6657
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2002
TARGETED PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IN GUJARAT
DILEEP SANGHANI;GORDHANBHAI JAVIA

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have identified the families living under poverty line in Gujarat which are to be included under the Targeted Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether each of the family has been provided with a special ration card;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken for providing of ration card at the earliest as these people have poor purchasing power?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN)

(a)&(b): Public Distribution System (PDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of Government of India and the State Governments/UT Administrations. While the Central Government is responsible for procuring and making available to the States the PDS commodities up to the Principal Distribution Centres, the responsibility of distribution of essential commodities under PDS, identification of BPL families and issue of ration cards rests with the State Governments. As reported by Government of Gujarat, the number of BPL families identified by them is 33.89 lakh against the estimated 21.20 lakh BPL famiies on the basis of the poverty estimates of the Planning Commission for year 1993-94 based on population projections as on 1.3.2000.

(c),(d)&(e): Yes, Sir. Government of Gujarat have reported issue of 33.63 lakh ration cards to BPL families.